

Switzerland

I. The Peoples of the Mountain Republic

By Dame Katharine Furse, G.B.E.

SWITZERLAND is a Federal Republic, consisting of twenty-five cantons or half cantons, most of which, originally either independent states or under the sovereignty of some other country, have been gradually brought together during the last ten centuries by a common bond of sympathy.

It is a neutral country surrounded by large Powers, and with no outlet to the sea. Geographically it is the watershed of Europe, as the glaciers of the Alps give rise to the rivers Rhine, Rhône, Po and Inn (which flows into the Danube), all these rivers having their outlet into different seas. Were it possible to make these rivers navigable within her borders, and could they be internationalised throughout their course, Switzerland might proudly fly her flag on the ocean, as is her ambition.

The Swiss nation is composed of different nationalities, each of which has retained its language, so that German, French and Italian are not only spoken by the people in different districts

but are, also, the official languages. In addition to these there are Romanisch and Ladin, left by the Romans in two valleys of Canton Grisons, as well as Gouverin Walsch, a Romance dialect spoken in Canton Fribourg, which was originally Burgundian.

Every child has the option of learning two or more languages in the schools, and all employees of the state must necessarily know three, all postal, railway, and other official notices being printed in German, French and Italian. Many Swiss learn English also.

The population of Switzerland is about 4,000,000, and the area some

16,000 square miles, of which 4,500 square miles is unproductive, consisting of glaciers, rocks, and lakes, while the greater proportion of what is termed productive land is composed of steep mountain slopes, covered with forests, and almost devoid of human habitation or cultivation.

The only large towns are Geneva, Basel, and Zürich, which are very cosmopolitan, while St. Gall, and Winterthur, are eminently manufacturing centres. Berne



AN IDYLL OF NEUCHÂTEL

Instinctive grace marks her unaffected pose as this girl worker in a Neuchâtel vineyard pauses in her pleasant task of gathering the luscious fruit that shall presently be turned into wine

Photo, Hermann Stauder

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BERNESE GRACE IN BERNESE SETTING

As will be noticed in the dress of this smiling daughter of Berne, Swiss local costumes combine artistry of design with excellence of material, but as a rule they are reserved for wear on festal occasions

Photo, Underwood Press Service

having been finally chosen as the capital, contains the Houses of Parliament; but the Federal law courts are at Lausanne and the Politcchnicum at Zürich.

The Government is democratic and much decentralised; the Federal or supreme Government only controlling such affairs as foreign policy, national railways, postal services, customs, the coinage of money, and to a certain extent the army and education.

The actual government is mainly carried out locally by the commune, which is the village or district community. The communes combine

together to form the canton or county, to the governing council of which they send representatives. The cantons in their turn are so far independent of the Federal Government that they have their own laws.

The cantonal government sends delegates to the Council of States, which, together with the National Council, consisting of representatives of the people, in proportion of one to every twenty thousand voters, elects the Federal Council which selects its own president who becomes President of the Swiss Republic.

The people are further protected in their right to self-government by the Initiative and Referendum, which are the machinery by which questions may be referred to all voting citizens for their decision.

The cantons are governed in different ways according, mainly, as to whether their inhabitants were originally German,

French or Italian.

Parties are mainly divided into agricultural and labour; the former being the stronger. Patriotism for the fatherland and loyalty to commune and family lie at the root of Swiss character and education.

There is no established Church, but each canton or commune can have the Church of its choice.

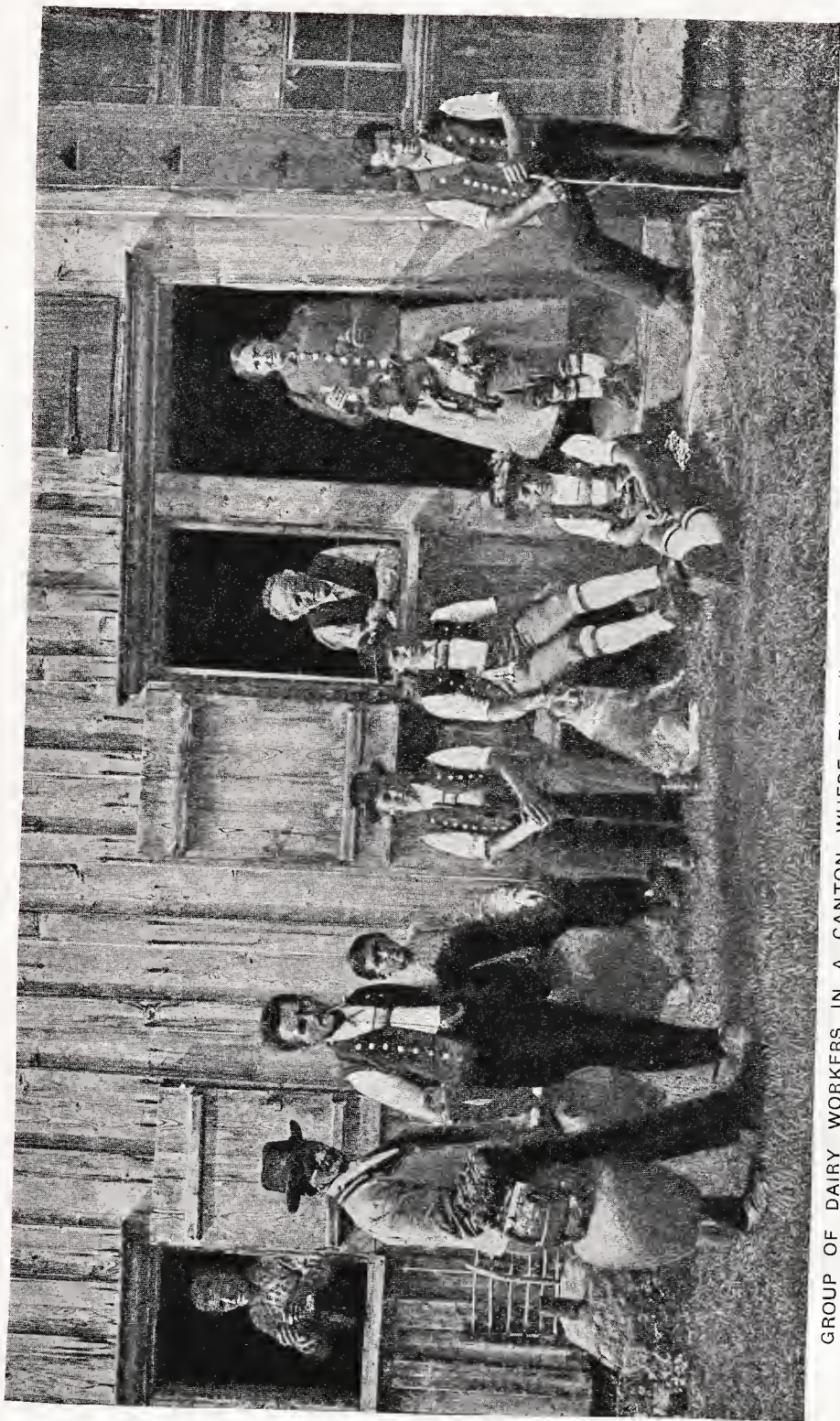
The Federal Government is empowered to insist upon religious freedom and upon peace being kept between the different sects. Religion has a strong hold upon the people. Education



COUNTRYMAN OF APPENZELL REVIVES AN ANCIENT PRACTICE

At the prime of its development and the height of its popularity about the middle of the thirteenth century the crossbow, from the shape of its stock, probably provided the idea that adapted the unwieldy bombard to a handy portable weapon. The men of Appenzell—a canton in the north-east near the southern end of Lake Constance—still find that it provides an admirable pastime

Photo, Hermann Stauder



GROUP OF DAIRY WORKERS IN A CANTON WHERE THE "WHEY CURE" IS PRACTISED WITH GOAT'S MILK. They belong to Appenzell, the men of which canton are noted for their skill in wrestling, hurling, and other sports, and the women for their blue eyes, fair hair, and the picturesqueness of their native costume. The canton, once under the dominion of the abbots of S. Gall, hence the name Abtszelle or Abbatis Cella, has been divided since 1597 into Roman Catholic and pastoral Inner Rhoden, where hand-embroidery is a flourishing home industry, and Protestant and industrial Outer Rhoden. The primitive institutions of the canton include the compulsory general deliberative assembly, once a year, of all male ^{citizens} over twenty years of age.

Photo, Kadel ^{Photograph}



SILENT ORISONS IN AN ALPINE SANCTUARY OF LOCARNO

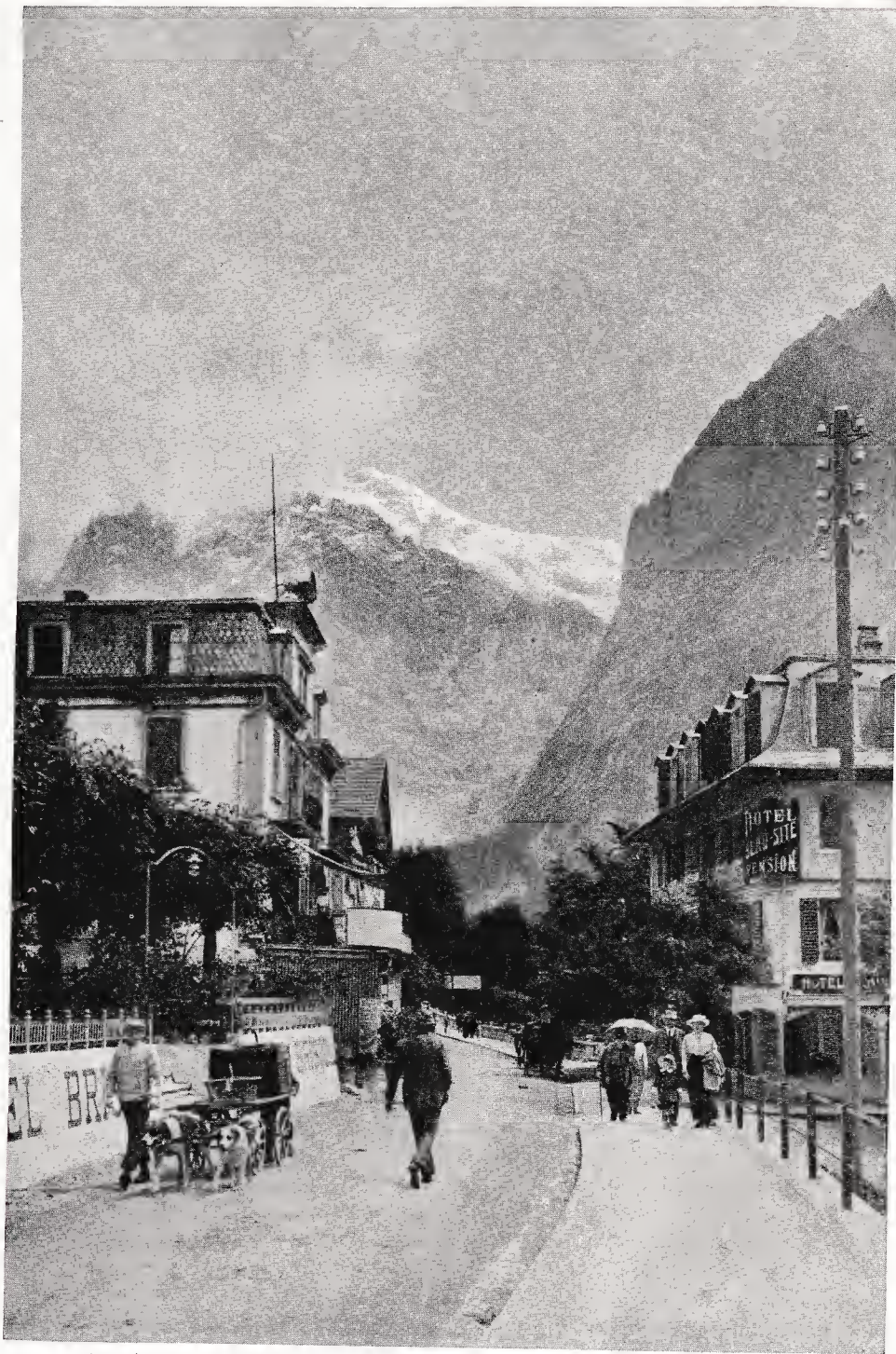
Some of the more notable of Alpine shrines, like the frescoed church of Madonna del Sasso at Morcote, or this in the wild Val Verzasca, are in the Italian parts of Switzerland. The architecture and inhabitants, as well as the scenery of Locarno, which is situated on Lake Maggiore and is a favourite health resort famous for its flowers, foliage, and genial climate, are characteristically Italian

Photo, Hermann Stauder

is highly developed. The Federal Government has some responsibility for ensuring that it shall be "sufficient, obligatory, gratuitous, and non-sectarian," but the actual control is left to the cantons and communes. Rich and poor send their children to the same schools. Girls and boys are taught in separate classes, except in small village schools, girls being put on exactly the same footing as the boys, Switzerland having been the first country in Europe to admit women to the universities.

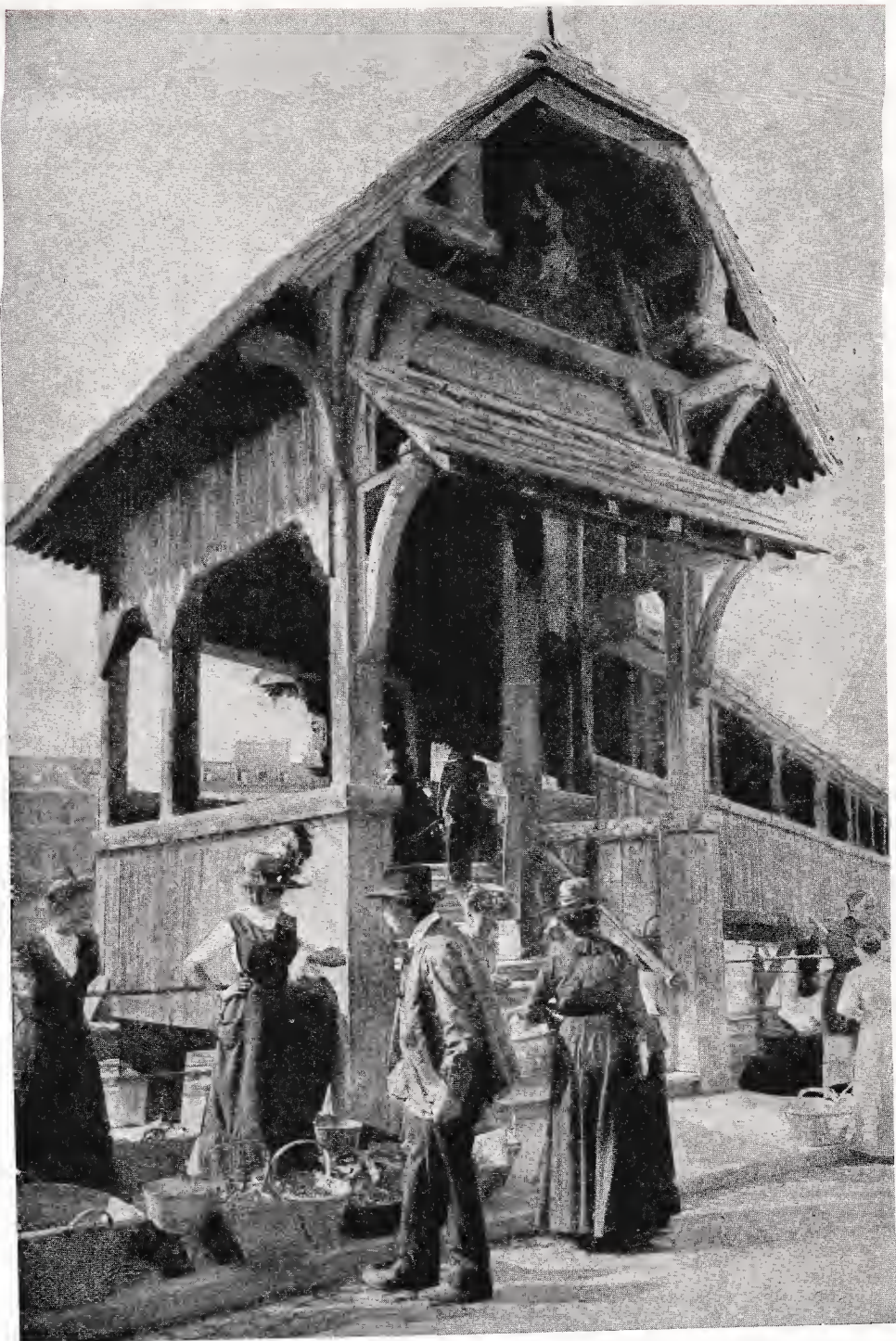
In mountain districts, where the parents need the help of the children

during the summer to get in the hay and to herd the cows and goats, school terms are confined to autumn and winter; but in the towns they are very much the same as in England. Pauper children, who in most cantons are entrusted to foster parents and not segregated in institutes, attend the same schools as their richer neighbours, and the local educational authorities are obliged to ensure that all children are sufficiently clothed, and that those who have to walk long distances to school, which is often the case in the mountains, are provided with food. Every man who is physically fit,



IN "THE GLACIER VILLAGE" OF PICTURESQUE GRINDELWALD
One of the most popular of summer and winter resorts in the Bernese Oberland, Grindelwald's many attractions include the majestic Wetterhorn (12,150 feet) and Eiger (13,040 feet), the Mettenberg (10,193 feet), with its wonderful glaciers which feed the Black Lütchine, the beautiful walks in the vicinity, and the facilities afforded for ski-ing and other out-of-door winter pastimes

Photo, Georg Haeckel



FAVOURITE STAND FOR STREET TRADERS IN LUCERNE

Entrance to the quaint old roofed wooden bridge which crosses the River Reuss diagonally, dates from the fourteenth century, and contains, suspended from its rafters, many paintings illustrating lives of Lucerne's patron saints and deeds of her brave sons. Near its south end is the Wasserturm, or water tower, from whose lantern (lucerna) the town is doubtfully said to have derived its name

Photo, Georg Haechel



WELCOME REST BY THE ROADSIDE IN EVOLENA

Eyes of youth and of infancy look towards the camera with calm directness, and the firm lips of girl and child express well the independence of the Swiss character. Evolena is a holiday resort in Canton Valais, its picturesque houses being survivals of ancient Valaisian architecture and the costumes of its womenfolk among the few spared by latter-day developments

Photo, Donald McLeish

except Government employees, is obliged to serve in the army, and recruits are required to sit for a written examination. Those who are unfit are taxed according to their means. The Confederation supplies arms, but equipment and uniform are furnished by the cantons and the men are recruited territorially. After a man has reached the age of seventeen he is liable to be called up for forty-five days' training in the Elite, or first division, after

which he joins the first reserve for a period of sixteen days, every other year and, finally, the Landsturm, or second reserve, being called upon every four years for nine days' service. During the whole of this period he keeps his uniform and arms at home, and is obliged to produce them periodically for inspection.

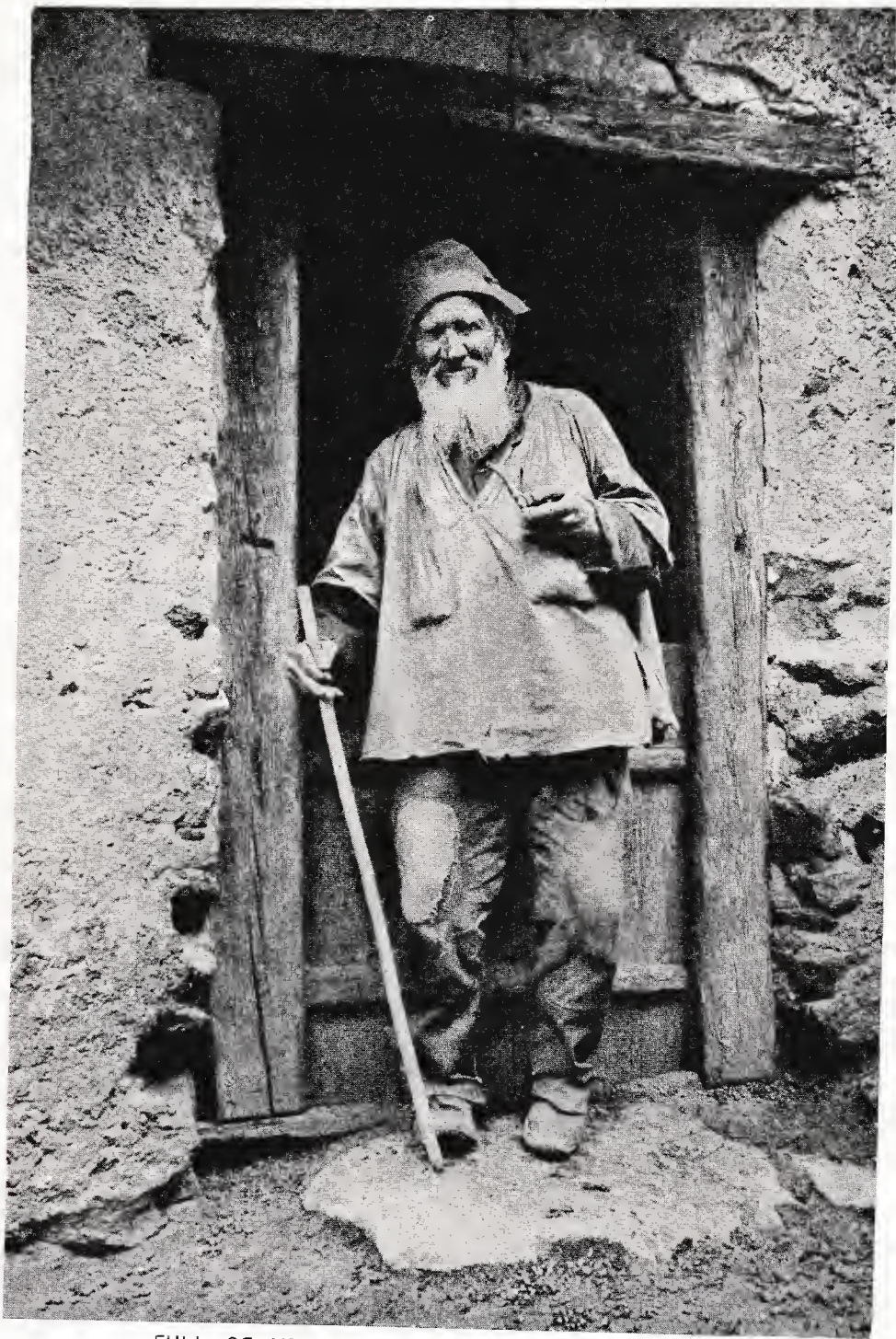
The army is run on the same democratic lines as the schools; the sons of rich and poor serving side by side, so



YOUNG GOATHERD OF THE MOUNTAIN PASTURES

Swiss boys and girls play a serious part in the hard struggle for existence which characterises the life of large numbers of the peasantry, and this fact makes the intellectual progress of the people the more remarkable, and provides a thought-provoking contrast to the blue lakes, glittering pinnacles, beautiful flora, and other physical features that appeal to the eye of the passing tourist

Photo, Donald McLeish



FULL OF YEARS AND ADVENTUROUS EXPERIENCES

This aged Alpine shepherd, standing by the doorway of his rude chalet, pipe in one hand for solace and in the other the short staff whose support is but seldom needed, looks for all the world like Rip Van Winkle after his sleep on the Katskills, save that the years have left him calmly contemplative and apparently content with the simple life of the mountains

Photo, Donald McLeish



AT THE HOSPICE OF THE GREAT ST. BERNARD

At the summit of the pass of the same name, 8,111 feet high, a hospice existed in the ninth century, and was refounded by S. Bernard of Menthon two centuries later. On its steps is seen the prior with one of the famous dogs, Leon, who, when but three years old, had already saved thirty-two lives. The training of the dogs of the St. Bernard hospice takes about two years

Photo, Donald McLeish



SCANTY FOOTHOLD IN THE DEPTHS OF A CREVASSE

Remarkable photograph of a famous Swiss guide, Andreas Hartmann, poised on an icy pinnacle some eighty feet down in a crevasse. Only the most hardy and experienced mountaineer would dare such a venture to see the beautiful effect of the sun's reflection and refraction through the ice, for an involuntary descent would mean death by drowning or freezing if not by the fall itself

Photo, Donald McLeish



CALLING THE CATTLE HOME IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND

As haunting to the memory as the "Ranz des vaches," sung on the departure for the mountain pastures, is the sound of the alpenhorn calling the cattle home at sunset. The sound echoes from alp to alp, and all within hearing uncover their heads and say their evening prayer. The alpenhorn is often eight feet long, but varies in size, shape, and curvature with each locality



THE LEISURE HOUR IN AN ALPINE GASTHOUSE

Games of hazard seem an almost natural form of recreation for men who, in the pursuit of their livelihood, daily stake their stamina and skill against the forces of nature on the perilous, snowclad, crevasse-scarred peaks of their native land. They often possess small pastoral holdings which are carefully tended by their wives, aided by the willing hands of younger members of the family

Photos, Donald McLeish



SURROUNDED BY CRAGGY AND SNOW-CAPPED PEAKS : MOUNTAINEERS ON THE SUMMIT OF THE FAULHORN

Among the many ascents that offer themselves to the climber whose starting-point is Grindelwald, one of the most popular is that of the 8,803 feet of the Faulhorn, because of the ease with which it may be negotiated in about five hours, and because of the grandeur of the panorama that is commanded from the summit, with its "close-up" views of the Schwarzhorn, Wetterhorn, Fiescherhorn, Eiger, Jungfrau, Blimiseib, and other of the Bernese peaks as well as the lakes of Brienz, Thun, Neuchâ and Lucerne. The return to Grindelwald can be made in about four hours and a half.

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that employer and employed live under the same conditions and discipline. Officers are promoted from the ranks, being given the additional training necessary to fit them for their duties.

Labour is well organized and the conditions under which men and women work are controlled by the Government. There is generally sufficient work, of one sort or another, for everybody



PERILS OF PASTORAL LIFE IN THE ALPS

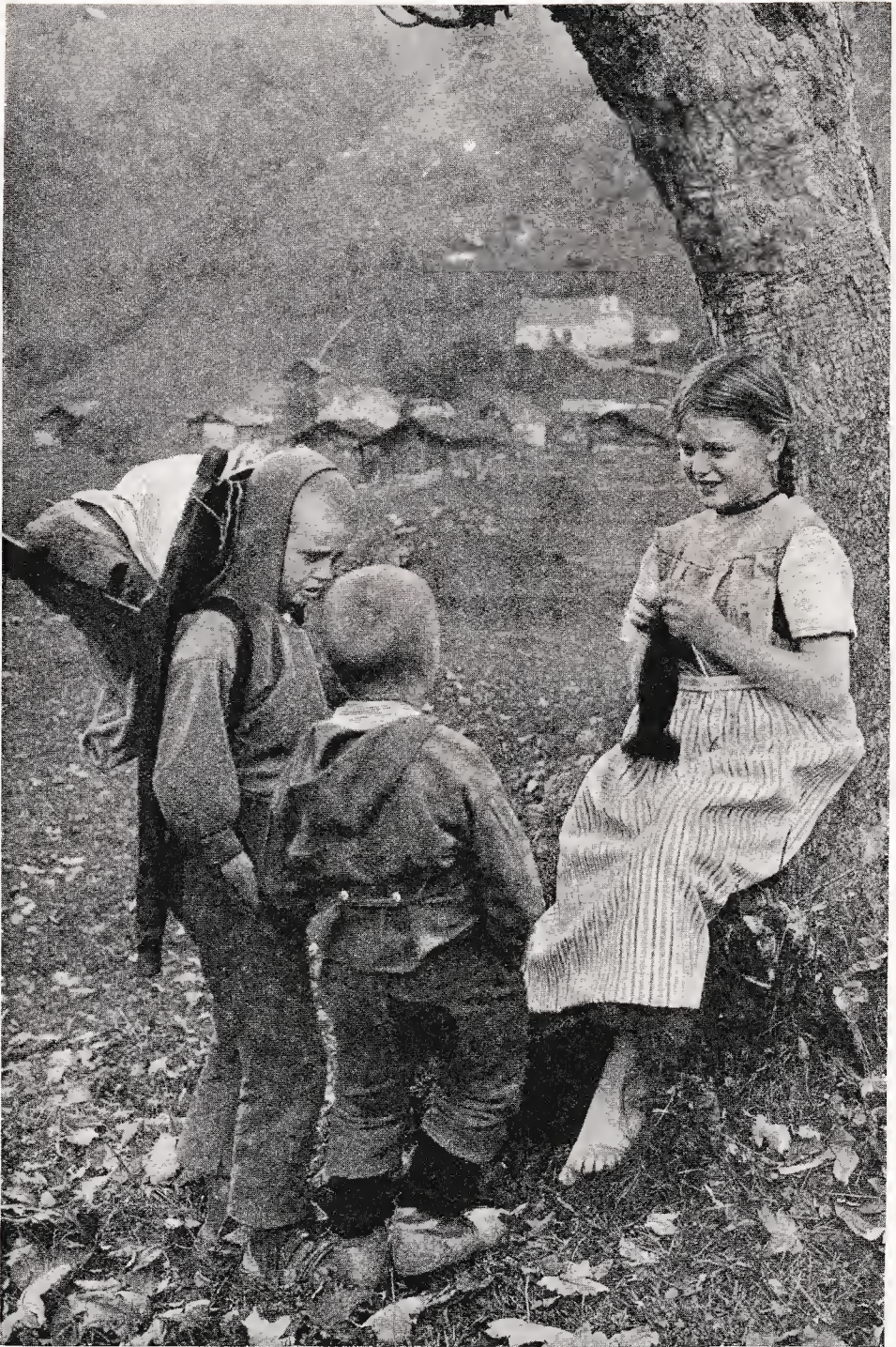
On this steep Alpine slope shepherd and goatherd carry their lives in their hands, having to be as surefooted as the animals in their care. Should a homestead or chalet be built, suddenly and without warning an earth tremor may precipitate it in splintering ruin down the mountain-side. Some such tragic happening is suggested by the broken timber in the foreground of the photograph

The boys are taught drill in the schools and every Swiss man is usually accustomed to using a rifle—shooting matches for prizes, throughout the cantons, forming one of the chief attractions of local fêtes.

In theory, class distinction does not exist, and all laws tend to prevent it. No one thinks any more of a neighbour because he is rich, or belongs to a family dating back many centuries. The use of titles is not tolerated at home, but members of the old patrician families are sometimes permitted to use them when appointed to foreign courts. There are virtually no poor people, and charity is regarded as a duty, not a right, among all citizens.

and loafers are not tolerated. Farmers and peasants usually own their own land and the accumulation of large properties is prevented by law. The Alps, or pasturages, and the forests are owned by the commune and every member of the commune has a right to graze so many head of stock, according to the size of his property, as well as to a certain amount of wood for fuel or other purposes.

In some cantons almost every village has its cooperative store, while the peasants also combine in the sale of their produce and even in the cultivation of their land, in exceptional circumstances. The communes appoint herdsmen who look after the cows up



LITTLE HANS TELLS AN AMUSING STORY

His face is turned from the camera, but as, hands in pockets, he stands with one knee bent, he appears to be older than his years. The older boy, too, with carrier on back, has taken up the burden of life early, and the young girl keeps her knitting-needles busy while she listens to little Hans. The scene is at Unterschächen in Canton Uri

Photo, Hermann Stauder



WOMEN WORKERS OF CHAMPÉRY IN MOURNING GARB

Normally the women of Champéry, at the head of the Val d'Illeiez, in Canton Valais, wear bright scarlet kerchiefs wound round their dark hair. They do the bulk of the field work, and in winter don long trousers of thick locally woven cloth. The people, traditionally of mixed Roman and Saracen descent, speak French, which is, however, combined with a patois of Celtic origin

Photo, Hermann Stauber



HAY HARVESTING IN THE ENGADINE: BRINGING HOME THE GARNERED WEALTH OF THE ALPINE MEADOWS

The scene is bathed in sunlight, the road is dusty, the cart's garb suggests summer's genial warmth, but the climate of the lofty Valley of the Inn is often described as "nine months winter and three months cold." The Engadine, while famous for its winter sports, attracts swarms of summer visitors seeking the baths and health-giving air of St. Moritz in particular. But apart from this source of income the chief wealth of the natives is in their hay-meadows, which usually yield three crops before October sets in. The use of oxen as draught animals is common throughout the valley

Photo, Donald McLeish



BY FOAMING TORRENT AND SOMBRE MOUNTAIN PINE

Young cowherd and her solitary charge on the boulder-strewn edge of the Visp torrent, the two branches of which are divided by the glacier-clad height of the Balfrin, or Balen-Firn, a projecting peak of the Saasgrat. The Visp, or Viège, gives its name to an old village delightfully situated on a hillock at the entrance to the Visp valley

Photo, Donald McLeish

on the Alps during the summer, milking them and making the cheese, which is divided among the owners of the cows, in proportion to the amount of milk given by each cow, this being periodically tested.

The chief industries are agriculture, including cheese and wine making, machinery, especially electric engines, cotton and silk goods, muslin curtains and embroideries, artificial silk, chocolate, condensed milk, watch making, and, last but by no means least, the "Fremden," or foreign industry. In addition to these, many home industries exist, such as wood and ivory

carving, straw plaiting, lace making, flax spinning and weaving.

The home industries are being much developed, as it is recognized that the hard and dull life of the peasants, especially in winter, when they are practically confined to their villages in the higher valleys, is driving many of the younger people into the towns and even further, beyond the borders of their country.

Agricultural Switzerland may be divided into three types—the fertile valley of the Aar, forming a plateau running from south-west to north-east, which is the centre of the milk and

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cheese country from the export point of view; the valleys of the larger lakes and rivers; and the narrower valleys penetrating to the shadow of the Alpine giants, where the peasants scrape a poor living off the slopes.

Vines are grown mainly on the south slopes of the lakes of Geneva, Neuchâtel, Zürich, and along the Rhône and Rhine, as well as in the Canton of Ticino. These require but little soil, so long as they get plenty of sun, and the vineyards are banked or terraced in order that the vines may always grow on the south side. Swiss wines are seldom met outside Switzerland, but they are pure and wholesome.

The vintage is a time of great gaiety, but it entails hard work and, often, disappointment when a sudden hail-storm has ruined the grapes and, with them, the prospect of the small holder, who was depending upon their yield.

The richest part of agricultural Switzerland lies in the valleys of the Rhine and Aar. Large farm houses are scattered throughout this pasture land, which produces most of the condensed milk, and chocolate factories are also seen. The finest cattle are bred here and the whole aspect of this country is prosperous, the farmers living almost entirely on the produce of their land.

The cows are put to graze the meadows in early spring, after which two or even three crops of hay are mown and, again in the autumn, the cows go into the meadows before being shut in their stables for the winter. The meadows are manured, and the result is hay so rich that no other food is required by the cows during the winter.

On the stable doors near La Gruyère, which is one of the richest of the districts, and the cheese of which is



MIXED SCHOOL IN ONE OF THE FOREST CANTONS

Except in such small schools as this at Unterschächen, Canton Uri, Swiss boys and girls are taught separately, and though climate and scattered homesteads present special difficulties in particular districts the Swiss educational system is admittedly one of the most efficient in the world; the excellence of its primary education being regarded as the corner stone of Swiss democracy

Photo, Hermann Stauder



SMILING GIRLHOOD OF NORTHERN SWITZERLAND

In the pleasing local costume of Hallau, Canton Schaffhausen, these two sisters make a charming picture as the sun lends sheen to their fair hair and brightens their laughing blue eyes

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Photo, Hermann Staude



BY THE FIRESIDE OF A TICINESE COTTAGE

Canton Ticino, so named from the river of that name, is in Italian Switzerland, but its people, while Italian in language and descent, are essentially Swiss in sentiment. Poverty is their normal lot, but should they emigrate, they are ever eager to return to the verdant slopes, smiling valleys, vineciad terraces, and chestnut groves of their homes on the shore of Lakes Maggiore and Lugano

Photo, Hermann Stauder

well known in England—shields are nailed up, showing the prizes obtained by the cattle or cheese of the farmer. Each shield shows the grue or crane, the punning crest of La Gruyère, and in the case of cheese prizes the crane is drawn on a cauldron on the shield.

Labour in these districts is easy, as the meadows are flat or on gentle slopes, but agricultural machinery is seldom seen and both mowing and threshing are still performed by hand.

Orchards of fine pear, apple, and cherry trees surround the farm houses, the fruit being dried and stored for winter use, or sent to the jam factories lately built at Lenzburg near Zürich, or Saxon in the Rhône valley.

Very little snow lies in the country we have been describing, and farm work can be carried on throughout the winter. Conditions are very different

in the mountains. Here the peasant lives a hard life, in some places scraping his living from almost unproductive slopes. Yet, even here, his frugality and industry enable him to live contentedly, as he has but few wants, and he is usually sufficiently prosperous.

While the people of Grisons are different from those of the Bernese Oberland, who, again are totally unlike those of Valais, the soil is much the same, the slopes are as steep, the rocks push through as ruggedly, and the land slips as easily, in all the mountain cantons.

During the winter the men are occupied with cutting, or fetching the hay from the higher slopes, spreading manure on the snow so that it lies ready to melt into the ground when spring comes, and looking after the cattle and goats, which are shut in almost

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hermetically-sealed stables. How the animals survive, living in the atmosphere necessary if their bodily warmth is to be sufficiently hoarded to prevent their dying of cold, is often a marvel, and their excitement and joy when let

and water power enables the commune to provide electric light which has saved many villages from destruction by fire—a constant menace to the wooden *châlets* in the days of paraffin lamps. The post penetrates to the highest



WHEN EVENING FALLS IN THE BERNESE OBERLAND

Lovers of the open air from their childhood, the Swiss often take their meals *alfresco*. Here we see a peasant family seated at supper at Meiringen, a village of the Hasli-Tal, whose people are believed to have descended from Scandinavian immigrants. Meiringen, which was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1891, and afterwards rebuilt on improved lines, lies in a valley on the Aar

Photo, Hermann Stauder

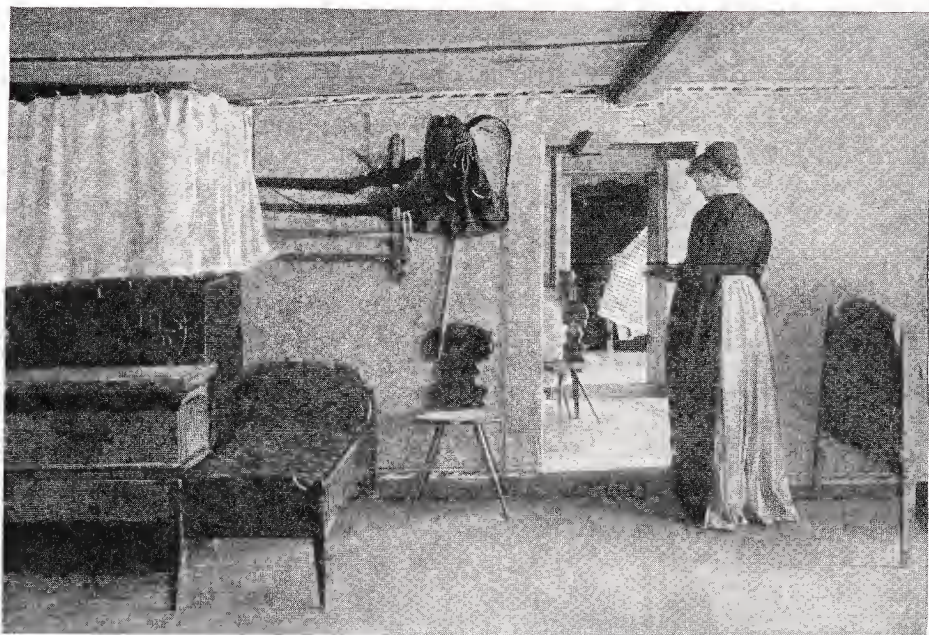
out in the spring are pleasant to watch. The women stay in their *châlets* looking after the housework, often spinning and weaving their cloth, or linen, while the children toboggan to school and home again. It is a quiet life, now and then enlivened by a dance, or wedding, or choral festival.

The Swiss peasant is a very frugal person, with but few wants, and an inveterate dislike of waste. Everything he does is of profit to himself, or his land, so that there is a constant incentive to hard work.

Conditions have been much improved by electricity, as even the remotest village is now reached by telephone,

hamlets, and hardly a *châlet* could be found where some newspaper is not taken in. The Swiss post carries almost anything, from a tourist's trunk to a pair of skis seven feet long. It also facilitates trade, as goods may be sent to be paid for on delivery. Debts may be collected by post, a claim arriving with the postman.

The peasants buy very little, living almost entirely on their own produce, but corn, potatoes, or dry chestnuts must be bought, where the villages lie too high to grow what is required in the way of starch food stuffs. The herdsmen sometimes live entirely on cheese during the weeks they are



HOME OF A SWISS PEASANT IN THE HASLI-TAL

Alpenstock, ice-axes, knapsack, and rifles, neatly suspended on the wall, serve to indicate the outdoor life of the master of the house, and the carved wooden furniture suggests the skilful work of native handicraftsmen, while the scrupulous cleanliness and tidiness that appeal at once to the eye are eloquent of the love and care bestowed by the housewife upon the little kingdom under her devoted rule



BURGHER'S DAUGHTERS OF THE BERNESE OBERLAND

They are within the porch of one of the decorated wooden houses of Zweisimmen that form so familiar a feature of the Simmer-Tal, and are wearing the pretty costumes peculiar to this valley. With Swiss girlhood the May-day of life is the hey-day of life; they know well how to make the most of it, but few prove better wives or mothers

Photos, Hermann Stauder

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away on some very high Alp, but they suffer in health as a result.

The dangers to the mountain habitations are very serious; storms producing landslides in summer and the snow, falling in huge avalanches in winter, are a constant menace to life and property.

The usual avalanche tracks are well known, and no one would build his house on one, or if he does, he protects it with a triangular wall which will cut the snow like a plough as it rushes down. But sometimes a very heavy fall of snow will enable an avalanche to start in a place which has not known one before. As it gathers strength it carries with it the forest, the trees snapping like twigs in the wind which pushes ahead, and a village lying peacefully in the valley below may be entirely buried.

There are two forms of avalanche—the “*Staub Lawine*,” or dust avalanche, falling in winter when the snow is still light and powdery, and the “*Grund*

Lawine,” or solid avalanche, falling in spring, and composed of heavy wet snow. The former is suffocating, as it penetrates everywhere, and a man buried by it has but little chance of living. The latter, being made up of lumps, with air holes between them, gives more chance of life to anyone who is not too much crushed by its weight. The wind which precedes an avalanche will lift a man and hurl him across a valley, sometimes even beyond where the snow rolls, so that if he survives the fall, he may escape.

The ravages of nature are not confined to the mountain valleys. The Rhône, which swirls down to Lake Geneva, and is fed by numbers of streams from very steep valleys on either side, rises and falls with terrible rapidity, and often threatens to break through its high banks. In 1920 it caused a flood which did infinite damage to the property of the Valais peasants, who are among the poorest



GATHERING THE LUSCIOUS FRUIT IN A SWISS VINEYARD

Wine is made in nearly all the Swiss cantons, especially on the southern slopes of the lakes of Geneva, Neuchâtel, Zürich, and along the Rhône and Rhine. Plenty of sun is more essential than depth of soil. The Swiss vintage is a time of great gaiety, but it involves hard work, for a sudden hailstorm may ruin the yield and its promise of winter sustenance for the small holder

Photo, Hermann Stauder

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in Switzerland, as, at the best of times, they have difficulty in cultivating sufficient to live upon. Fires are often caused by lightning striking a wooden roof and, before the peasants can collect from the fields, the sparks fly, and the whole village may be on fire.

It is on all these occasions that the best spirit of the Swiss nation is shown. The Federal Government publishes an appeal throughout the country, offering free carriage by railway or post of all goods sent to the stricken area. Local branches of mutual aid societies, of which several exist, immediately open centres where food, clothing, and money, are collected, and whence they are despatched without delay.

The Swiss, both as a nation and as individuals, are always ready to help those who are in trouble, and a good example of their international forethought is shown by the Red Cross Society. A citizen of Geneva happened to be present at the battle of Solferino, in Italy, and was so horrified by the suffering of the sick and wounded, that he hurried home, and persuaded his town to call a conference of the Powers. The result of this was the Geneva Convention of 1864, forming the International Red Cross Society, whose central office remains to this day at Geneva. As a compliment to Switzerland, its flag, a white cross on a red ground, was adopted, the colours being merely reversed.

The Swiss take a great pride in their humanitarianism, and cling to their neutrality by the whole will of the



YOUNG VINEYARD WORKER OF HALLAU

Hallau is in Schaffhausen, one of the most prosperous of the Swiss cantons, and a few miles from the famous falls of the Rhine. It gives its name to the red wine known as Hallauer

Photo, Hermann Stauder

people. They have accepted the League of Nations as an ideal, but had great doubt as to whether, by joining it, they might not be involved in European politics to the extent of losing their position as a neutral state ready to offer its hospitality to all schemes for the greater good of the world, and to citizens of other countries who might be in distress. For Switzerland has always been the home of those driven away by political stress from their own countries, and has, to a certain extent, suffered as a result. In this case a referendum was held, and the people voted for joining the League, but with certain reservations adapted to their position in Europe.

Summer time provides much enjoyment for everyone among the Alps;

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these used to be the playgrounds of foreigners, but are now attracting the Swiss themselves. The people from the towns migrate in whole families to the mountain villages for their holidays, and excursions are arranged for the school children, while both boy and girl students go off for two or three days, equipped with ice axes, ropes and rucksacks, for climbs among the glaciers and peaks. No longer is it the tourist who holds the field, except on mountains like the Rigi.

Holiday Making in the Homeland

The mountain trains and lake steamers are crowded with jolly parties of Swiss excursionists, nearly always singing. The songs they sing are invariably patriotic, the words "Thou beloved Fatherland" or "Thou beautiful Switzerland" being heard continually. Sometimes a gay soul will carry an accordion, on which to accompany his friends, or a tuning fork is produced, and the note given by the leader of the party.

The school children are accompanied by their teachers, and the length of their excursions is governed by the prosperity of their parents or commune. It may be only a whole day, on a mountain near their homes, or they may go off for two or three days, carrying their food and spare clothing in rucksacks, tramping to some high Alp, where the military authorities will sometimes lend them blankets and straw in a mountain hut.

Edelweiss and Alpenrose

Certain flowers possess an overwhelming attraction for the Swiss. Every year men and women are killed in their effort to pick edelweiss on some steep grass slope, where a slip means rolling to death over a precipice. This edelweiss is almost a fetish, and the fact that in many places it is so common that it is mown with the hay does not seem to detract from its value. It is difficult to analyse such attraction in a

flower, especially in a flower so like a bit of shrunk, torn, and dirty white flannel as the edelweiss.

It is easier to understand the love of the alpenrose or Alpine rhododendron, which grows in profusion on the slopes of the higher valleys. This is almost the national flower, and wreaths of alpenrose and oak are painted on all the post carriages. People returning from an excursion carry immense bunches of alpenrose tied to sticks and carried over their shoulders. The *Narcissus Poeticus*, which grows in white sheets in the meadows above Montreux, is another favourite, and an annual fête is arranged in its honour.

Economic Effects of the Great War

Some of these fêtes are organized as an attraction for the tourist, and the Montreux one, though attended by large numbers of Swiss from the surrounding villages, is mainly a battle of flowers, in which the foreigner takes part. A large proportion of Swiss lived mainly by the tourist industry before the Great War. Huge hotels sprang up wherever any special attraction existed. Shops followed the hotels, and the tourist centres were busy for nine months of the year. The Great War has changed this sadly, many of the hotels having to be shut up, while others are hardly able to exist. The whole nation suffered as a result, the men who used to earn good incomes as guides, or the owners of carriages and motor-cars, being all in a very bad way, while, owing to their high exchange, the Swiss found it difficult to dispose of their produce to advantage.

Great singing competitions are held at different centres, the one at Lucerne in 1922 being attended by thousands of singers from all over the country. Every village and town has its choral society, and the children learn to sing in unison in the schools.

An Aelplifest on Sunday in spring is a charming sight, representing the moving of the cattle up to the Alps

SWITZERLAND

Alpine Life & Scenery



Their large-heartedness no less than their mountaineering skill has won for the Swiss Alpine guides the admiration of the world

Photos (except those on pages 4847 and 4848), Donald McLeish



In the foreground, devotion before an Alpine Calvary ; beyond the pine line, the silent snowclad majesty of the towering Matterhorn



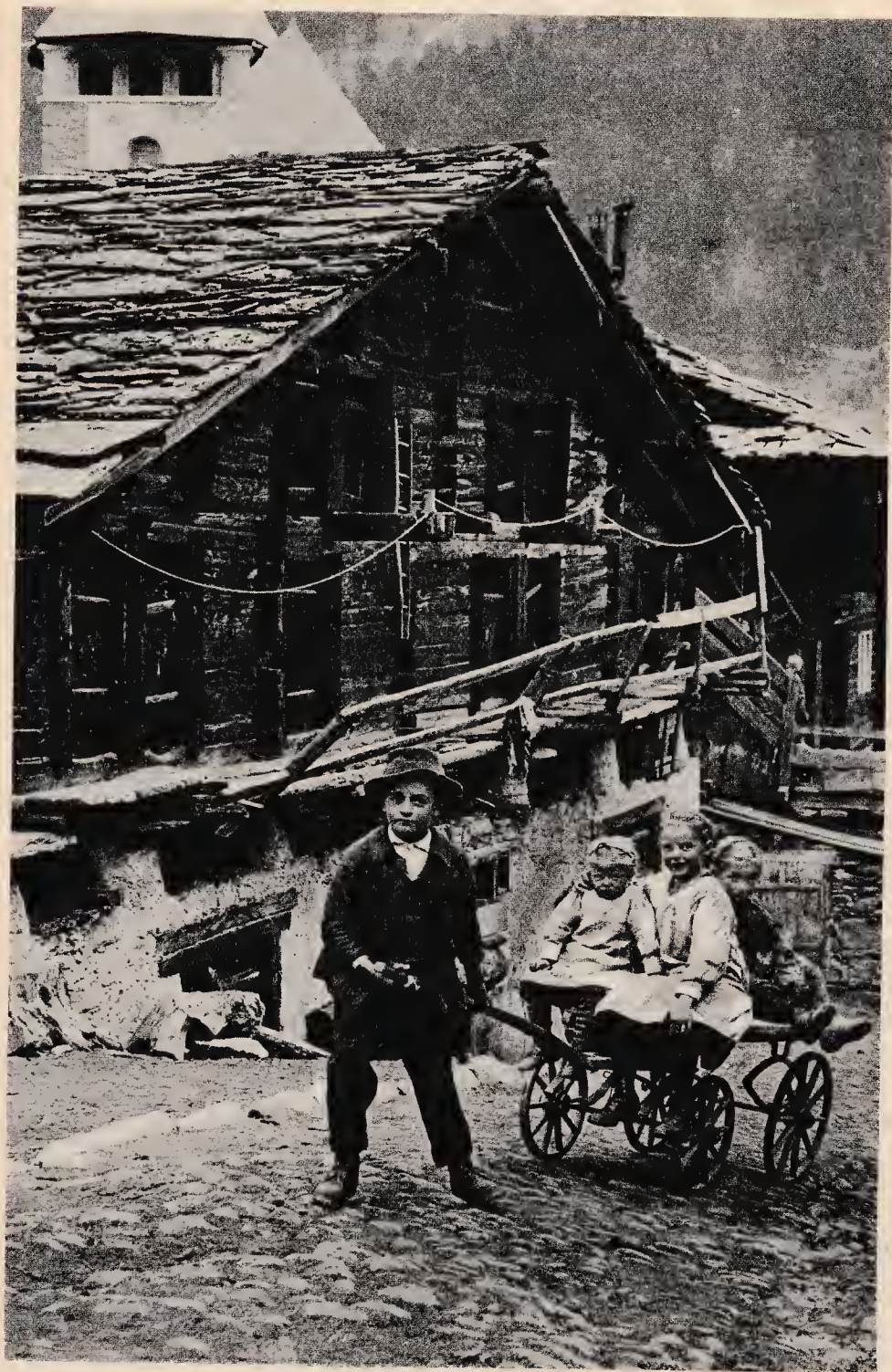
*Happy Swiss childhood at play by the old chapel-porch of Winkel-
matten, a charming little hamlet in the very heart of the Alps*



Erect despite her age and heavy basket this aged peasant of the Saas Valley leads her goat home from pasture, enjoying her pipe the while



Although there has been a steady increase in Swiss factories, the graceful art of the hand lace-maker survives in Wengen and elsewhere



*Sturdy young Switzer, who promises to prove a worthy son of Zermatt,
the training-ground of some of the most famous of Alpine guides*



*Cowherds of Toggenburg, they are on their way to the high pastures
with broad collars and great bells to adorn their wandering kine*

Photo, Hermann Stauder



Roman Catholicism has a stronghold in Canton Valais, and this semi-military religious procession at Kippel, in the picturesque little valley of the Lonza, has its occasional supplement in the miracle plays that are performed here

Photo, Hermann Stauder

SWITZERLAND & THE SWISS

in summer. The people dress up in their local costumes, and march through the villages with their cattle, goats, sheep and pigs, followed by carts or horses, laden with the great copper cheese-cauldrons, and other paraphernalia. The inhabitants of the district collect to see the show, and men wearing old uniforms, and carrying arms, which have probably been stored for possible use since Napoleon's time, lead the procession. Sometimes the setting is very elaborate, and large haycarts, decked out as *châlets*, carry men and women engaged on various industries, such as cheesemaking, weaving, or wine-pressing in full swing.

Happiness in Homespun

After the procession round the village, the whole company adjourns to some orchard outside, where wrestling will take place, and here the young gymnasts in their white vests and pants grapple with goatherds and cheesemakers in their homespun suits. The spectators sit round on the grass, or on benches, where wine and beer are served. The fun stops early, as the people all have to get home to look after their cattle, and the roads in every direction are crowded with whole families, who have got just as much joy and interest out of seeing their own daily toil depicted at the fête as townsmen would out of some drama at a cinema.

Climbing used to be mainly indulged in by a certain type of scholarly Englishman, who was greeted with joy by the guides and innkeepers, but watched with tolerance and wonder by the Swiss as a whole. Now, however, the people of the towns and villages are climbing their mountains far more, and without guides, being themselves good mountaineers and with no money to spend. The Swiss Alpine Club has built huts at a great many points where a night's shelter is necessary before the final ascent can be made. These huts are very simple, merely providing shelter, with fuel, and some

cooking utensils, hay or mattresses to sleep on, and a first-aid equipment, as well as a selection of different sized clogs lined with wool for the footsore climber who has not weighted his rucksack with luxuries such as slippers.

Universal Use of the Ski

Now that skis or Norwegian snowshoes have been brought to Switzerland, the mountains are open to the climber in winter as well as summer, and ski-ing is already a national pastime. The first pairs of skis were imported from Norway by the monks of the Great St. Bernard Hospice in 1883, as they realized that their life-saving work in the deep snow would be immensely facilitated by their use, and in 1887 skis were introduced to the Canton of Grisons and, gradually, this sport was adopted. Now, in almost every village where the snow lies the children learn to ski, while men and women go off on long excursions in the mountains. Races are held, as well as jumping competitions, in which Norwegians find it hard to hold their own.

Old and New Methods of Transport

Toboggans are used more by the Swiss themselves for practical purposes than for amusement. The postman on his rounds or the children going to school, or the mother of a family who has commissions in the village, slide down much faster than they can walk, and think nothing of dragging the light toboggan uphill.

The winter is the time when most of the hay and wood is carried, as the heavy loads slide easily over the snow. There is a law of the right of way in some cantons by which, when the snow lies on the ground, anyone may travel across any land which is not actually enclosed. This enables the peasants to take the shortest cuts to their goal and no damage can be done to property, as the snow protects it.

Another way by which wood, hay, and even milk are transported, is along



MERRY STAVE IN THE SONG OF THE VINE

Earth has given forth her increase, and the smiling faces of these happy young people reflect the prospect of a good vintage. This autumn scene is in a vine-growing district of Neuchâtel, where the people are mostly French-speaking, and where large quantities of wine of excellent quality are produced, of which most of what is known as the "petit vin blanc" is consumed locally

Photo, Hermann Stauder

wires stretched from some high cliff to the valley below, with a windlass by which the burden is let slowly down. These wires may be seen shining in the light like a spider's thread, travelling miles across the mountains.

Most of the larger streams and rivers are being dammed at intervals to provide electricity. The water is often carried for miles through tunnels

in the rock, until it is finally led into huge iron pipes and allowed to rush down to the turbines in a power station, whence wires carry the power away to distant towns and factories.

The mountain railways are nearly all electric, and the main lines through the St. Gotthard, Simplon, and other passes are gradually being electrified. The Great War drove the Swiss to a

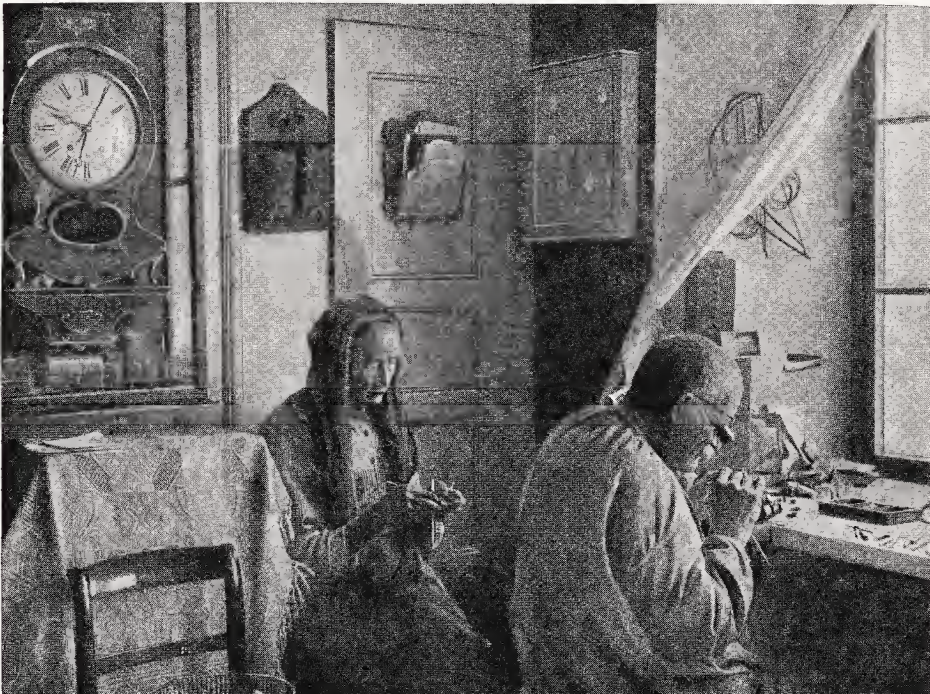
SWITZERLAND & THE SWISS

feverish development of their water power because they suffered terribly from lack of coal, which was originally imported from Germany and Belgium, but which, during the war, had to be brought from America and transported at the convenience of the French or Italian railways to the Swiss frontier. Coal was so scarce that the Swiss were paying £15 a ton, and more, for it and were often unable to procure sufficient, so that wood had to be used for the railway engines.

The Swiss are very chary of cutting too much wood which is growing at high altitudes, and which protects the valleys from avalanches, as the trees bind the snow and tend to prevent it from slipping. So important is this fact that the forestry laws are very strict, and foresters, approved by the Federal Government, are appointed to superintend all wood cutting.

An owner of forest land in some cantons is not allowed to cut one of his own trees without the approval of the forester, who marks the tree which can best be spared, choosing it with a view to the purpose to which the owner desires to put the wood. In some districts two young trees have to be planted for every one cut, in order that the forests may be maintained.

The heights of various places may be roughly ascertained by observing the trees. For instance, fruit trees, beech, ash, and other deciduous trees do not grow above 5,000 feet. The larch and spruce stop at 6,000 feet, while the pinus cembra or arolla pine is only happy at 6,000 feet and grows above that line. Only the juniper can live up to 7,000 feet, where it becomes so scrubby that it is almost a creeping plant. Vegetation of all sorts except,



SWISS INDUSTRY AS WORLD-FAMOUS AS THE SWISS ALPS

More than three hundred years have passed since the art of watchmaking was introduced into Switzerland by a Burgundian who settled in Geneva. A large percentage of the serviceable watches in the world's market still come from Geneva and Neuchâtel. Many of the best workmen ply their calling in their own homes in the manner shown in the above photograph

Photo, Hermann Stauder



FASHIONING ARTISTIC POTTERY IN A BERNESE VILLAGE

In Canton Berne, as elsewhere in Switzerland, are few if any idle burners of the oil of life, and like their fellow-craftsmen in other industries, Swiss potters evince infinite pride in their handiwork. The chief centre of majolica manufacture is Heimberg, but in the adjacent village of Steffisburg, where this photograph was taken, much artistic ware is produced

Photo, Hermann Stauder

perhaps, some lichens, stops at 9,000 feet, while glacier level may be taken roughly as 8,000 feet, though many glaciers roll down to 4,000 feet above sea-level.

Many of the big spruce or larch trees in the forests 5,000 feet above the sea are hundreds of years old and their wood is generally used to build with. The rooms of *châlets* are usually panelled with these, the larch being of a deep red-brown, but the cembra is much prized as a panelling wood. It shows great knots, and the panels are made of two planks reversed so that these knots make a formal pattern.

Most Swiss peasants are good carpenters and build their own *châlets*, decorating them with carving and often painting mottoes or prayers under the eaves, together with the initials of the owner and his wife, and the date when the *châlet* was built. The rooms

are low and the windows small, double windows being fitted for winter use. A huge porcelain stove is often built between two rooms and becomes the centre of home life during the winter months. A wooden bench surrounds it and there may be a seat between part of the stove and the wall where the grandfather or delicate member of the family sits through the winter. These stoves require but little wood to warm them, as, when the flame has burned out, and only charcoal remains, the chimney of the stove is shut and the heat is kept in and lasts for hours.

Wood for fuel is stored on the sunny side of the house from one year to another so that it dries thoroughly. The sun is so strong that on the south side the wood composing the *châlets* is burnt to a deep brown, while on the north side it is grey where wind and rain beat against it.

SWITZERLAND & THE SWISS

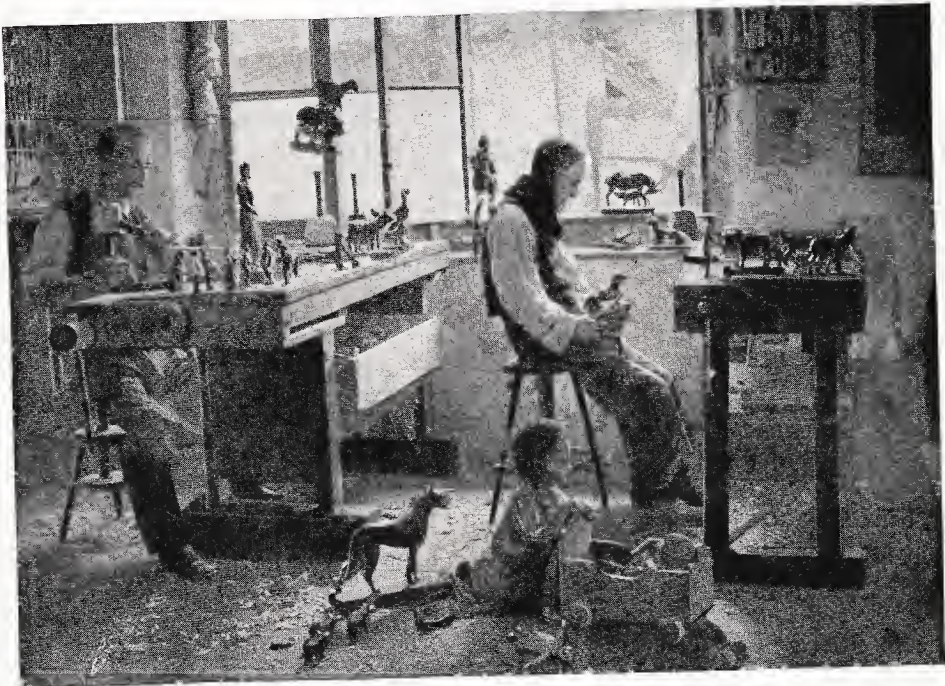
The air being so dry, the wood never rots, and these chalets are dry and warm. Where it is necessary to build a house above tree level as well as on the plain, when wood is scarce, stone is usually used, the masonry work being performed by Italians who migrate to Switzerland in summer-time for the purpose. It is curious how the Swiss seldom do any stone work themselves, though the Great War altered this, too, to a certain extent.

In lower Switzerland chestnut and walnut woods are much used for panelling and furniture, and cherry wood may also be found. The wood carving of commerce is mainly done in lime or walnut and comes mainly from the Canton of Berne, Brienz being the great centre. Here nearly every house has its workshop, each producing one type of carving. One family devotes itself to producing eagles, and another

to bears, while another may make nothing but toy chalets. Herr Hugler lately started a new school of carving at Brienz, but, even his disciples tend to limit their work to a repetition of certain patterns, originally cut by himself.

Very little fine art exists in Switzerland, which has not produced one world-renowned painter, or poet, or sculptor. At the same time every Swiss citizen takes trouble to make his house attractive, and the "stube," or parlour, invariably contains some beautiful bit of furniture or attractive pottery or linen of which the family is very proud. Home crafts are being encouraged by societies throughout the country, and it is the Swiss themselves who mainly buy their produce, which is invariably good and solid.

The continual fight with the elements which has been the lot of the Swiss in their mountain homes has probably



BEAUTIFUL AND USEFUL BY-INDUSTRY OF THE SWISS PEASANTS

Since the first school of wood carving was founded at Brienz in the Bernese Oberland many years ago this art has spread widely and become an important by-industry of the Swiss people, whose skill has proved a delight to the connoisseur as well as to the child, and served also to relieve the peasantry from the pressure of what formerly was a more or less precarious livelihood

Photo, Hermann Stauder

SWITZERLAND & THE SWISS



SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE VAL D'HÉRENS

That it is the day of rest is shown by the dress of these old folk of the valley village of Evolena, by the look of peace that has fallen upon their toil-worn faces, and by the costume of the child

Photo, Hermann Stauder

tended to produce a very practical character which is well seen in their houses and clothes.

Local costumes are not generally worn, except on festal occasions. They are made of the very best materials such as silk, fine cloth, or fine linen with lace, the men of some districts wearing coloured leather caps and belts, while the women have beautiful silver or gold jewelry which is part of their dowry and which may be handed down from generation to generation.

Swiss children are almost invariably nice-looking and well-mannered. In country districts the inhabitants greet the stranger as they greet each other, but, owing to the foreigner seldom

responding, this habit will soon die out. The school-masters regret this very much because they do everything in their power to teach the children to be courteous and friendly. "Gott Grüsse" (God greet you) or "Lcb' Wohl" (good health to you) are the usual greetings in German Switzerland.

The honesty of the Swiss is proverbial, and if petty pilfering takes place it can usually be traced to people of other nationalities living in the country. Orchards are seldom protected by walls or hedges, and the mass of fruit on the trees hangs safely till picked by its owner. The peasants seldom resent the passer-by helping himself to a handful of cherries or an apple, and no one seems to abuse their generosity. If a traveller loses a bag it almost invariably is recovered, and doors need seldom be locked in Swiss hotels.

The Great War was a great test of patriotism, because language can influence sympathy, and there was undoubtedly some feeling between the different cantons, but they refused to allow this to influence them in their foreign policy. They maintained their neutrality at great expense to themselves as the army was mobilised throughout the war, the whole frontier being guarded against attack by any one of the belligerent Powers which might have taken a short cut, as did the Roman armies, as well as the Austrians and, later, Napoleon, when wishing to get at an enemy beyond Switzerland. The maintaining of the army entailed so much expense that the

SWITZERLAND & THE SWISS

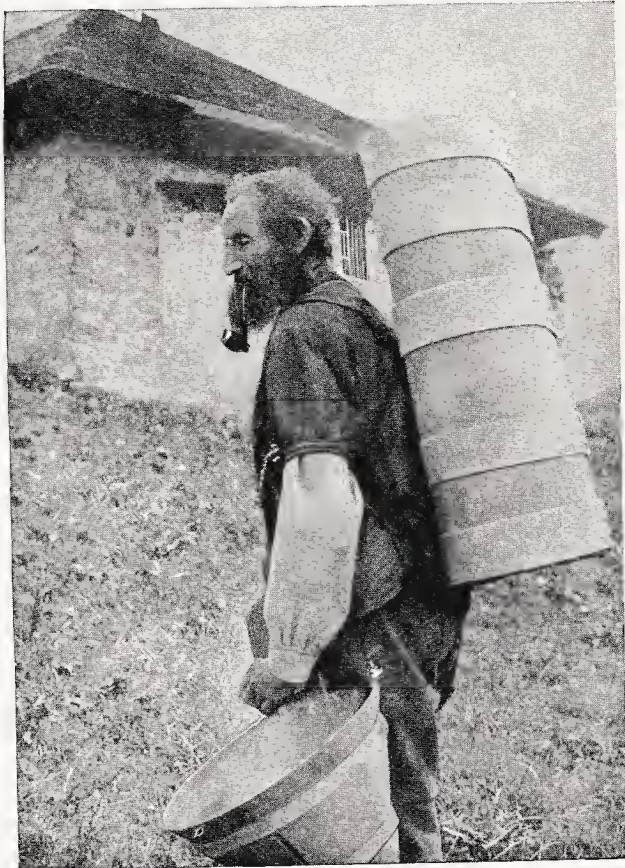
Federal Government was obliged to appeal by referendum to the people to sanction a national debt which had never been incurred before. The nation responded whole-heartedly, and the poorest peasant bore his part of the burden forced upon him by the warring of great Powers in which he had no interest. Not only did the Swiss suffer financially owing to the war, but many a healthy young citizen gave up his life in the terrible epidemic of grippe, or influenza, which attacked the army. These men, accustomed to the open-air life of the mountains, died in large numbers when crowded together in barracks, living a life to which they were unsuited.

In spite of her own suffering during the war, Switzerland did everything possible to alleviate the suffering of the belligerents. The International Red Cross Society at Geneva worked busily for the betterment of the conditions of prisoners of war in all countries, and Swiss towns and health resorts opened their hotels to those prisoners who could be sent to them.

It is often said that this was merely done to bring money into the country, but those who know how much the Swiss nation suffered from lack of the necessities of life which they could not import, except at the pleasure of the surrounding countries, realize at what a sacrifice the Swiss maintained their best traditions of neutrality and charity.

It is not improbable that some among the readers of these pages will recall in

this connexion the good work that was carried on in Chateau d'Oex, a pretty little village of Canton Vaud, famous for the health-giving qualities of its delicious air, which has helped to make it such a favourite summer and winter resort. Chateau d'Oex lies in a green valley rather more than twenty-two miles from Lausanne, and here many British sick and wounded, released from prison camps in Germany, found a haven of rest where their physical and mental recovery was helped forward, not only by medical skill and invigorating climatic conditions, but by the sympathetic reception accorded them by their kind-hearted hosts.



VETERAN COWHERD OF THE MELCHTAL

Melchtal is in Canton Unterwalden, whose menfolk are said to have helped to defend Rome from the Goths, and whose green slopes and rugged summits rival in beauty and grandeur those of any other of the forest cantons

Photo, Hermann Stauder



WHERE THE SWISS MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS MAKE THEIR PATROL IN THE THIN COLD AIR ABOVE THE CLOUDS

As in other European countries that include within their borders some portion of the Alps, Switzerland makes a special and very spectacular feature of its mountain troops. Manoeuvres that develop from military evolutions to sheer exhibitions of hazardous rock climbing are common. The Swiss remember that whatever means of defence the genius of destruction may devise, the frozen peaks of the Alps are their surest and ever-ready bulwark against attack. In the photograph two officers of a mountain patrol are seen upon the last height of some weather-split crag

Switzerland

II. Origin and Development of the Confederation

By Francis Gribble

Author of "Lake Geneva and Its Literary Landmarks," etc.

THE territory which eventually became Switzerland first figures in history in Julius Caesar's "Commentaries." It is there related that the Helvetii entered Gaul, as emigrants rather than invaders, through the Jura passes, but were defeated near Lyon, and rolled back into their own country.

The Romans followed them; and Roman rule speedily spread over the land. Broadly speaking, it encircled the country, leaving the centre comparatively independent. Forts were built along the northern frontier, at Basel, Constance, and elsewhere to keep out the Germans.

Under the Foot of the Conqueror

The Roman dominion lasted about 450 years; but the collapse began long before the expiration of that period. Then it came about that Germans and Burgundians divided the country between them—the former establishing themselves in the east and the latter in the west; but they were invaders of widely differing temper and quality. The Germans came as barbarians, sweeping Roman institutions away, and superseding the Latin language with a new jargon. The Burgundians, who had accepted Roman civilization, kept its traditions alive, and spoke the language which evolved into French. They were Christians and had bishops at a time when the German Swiss were still heathens. But these, too, were presently converted.

There followed the confused time of the Middle Age. The country then formed a part of the dominions, first of the Merovingian, and subsequently of the Carolingian kings. It was also raided by Hungarians and Saracens; and it eventually became a part of what is sometimes called the Holy Roman and sometimes the German Empire, ruled by feudal lords, who owed allegiance to the Emperor.

The first great date is 1291. In that year, the men of the three Forest Cantons—Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden—formed a Perpetual League against the arbitrary rule of their overlords of the House of Hapsburg. In spite of the League, acts of oppression continued; and then three peasants—Werner Stauffacher, Walter Fürst, and Arnold von Melchtal—met, in 1307, in a meadow, close to Lake Lucerne, and swore the famous oath of Grütli,

to the effect that they would free the people and drive out the governors who had been set over them. The familiar story of William Tell belongs to this period; but modern historians declare that there is no word of truth in it.

What is unquestionably true, however, is that, with the League and the Oath, the Swiss Confederation came into being. The Duke of Austria tried to suppress it, but his army came very badly to grief at the battle of Morgarten (1315)—another proud date in Swiss history.

As a result of the victory Lucerne joined the Confederation. Zürich joined it in 1351, Glarus and Zug in 1352, and Berne in 1353. Gradually the Confederation expanded, the last cantons to join being Geneva, the Valais, and Neuchâtel.

Thus the political beginnings of Switzerland were an assertion of the right of small nationalities to self-determination; and the Confederation originated in an alliance to secure and defend that right. Their success in dealing with the hereditary oppressor gave the Swiss the strength and renown of a military power. Foreign potentates were glad to enrol them as mercenaries or to conclude alliances with them. Their most famous victories were those which they achieved, in alliance with Louis XI. of France, over Charles the Bold of Burgundy, at Grandson and Morat, in 1476. In the immediately succeeding years, the Confederation was still further enlarged until, in 1513, the incorporation of Appenzell raised the number of cantons to thirteen. The further additions, which made the number up to twenty-two, were delayed until after the close of the Napoleonic wars.

Influence of the Reformation

Meanwhile the history of Switzerland became in large measure the history of Bernese imperialism.

Berne was the appanage of the Dukes of Zähringen. Berchtold V. of that House founded it in 1191. It became a Free City after his death, and had a long and stern struggle with the jealous nobility before its admission to the Confederation, in 1353. It came into prominence as a State disposed to conquer and annex during the Reformation.

In Switzerland, as elsewhere, that great religious change brought war in



THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND ITS PEOPLES

its train. Berne adopted its principles soon after Zürich, moved by Zwingli's preaching, had shown the way. The Forest Cantons resisted them, and there was hard fighting, terminated by the Peace of Kappel (1529), which happily guaranteed liberty of conscience to every one. Another war, a little later, launched Berne on her career of aggrandisement.

Vaud belonged, at that time, to the Dukes of Savoy. Geneva was a Republic, which had lately emancipated itself from his rule, but still owed him a vague allegiance. In both territories alike the Reformation was making progress; and the Duke of Savoy, as the champion of the Church, resolved to reassert his authority.

He prepared to lay siege to Geneva. That city appealed for help to the Bernese, who in response marched through Vaud to Geneva, stopping at the famous Castle of Chillon, on their way, to release Bonivard from his captivity, and receiving the submission of Lausanne, Vevey, and Yverdon.

The Canton of Vaud became, in 1536, a Bernese colony. Such liberties as it had acquired under the Dukes of Savoy were swept away. It was divided up into bailiwicks, and governed from Berne pretty much as India was until lately governed from England, but far more dictatorially.

That was the status of the canton in the years in which its leading towns acquired cosmopolitan celebrity and became the resort of fashion, the years in which Ludlow the Regicide fled for

refuge to Vevey, where he is buried, and Gibbon settled at Lausanne to finish the "Decline and Fall."

It was a time of outward prosperity, but of inward discontent. Scions of aristocratic families, excluded from all official careers at home, shook the dust of their birthplace from off their feet, and, in the service of some foreign power—as Governors of Canada, Mayors of Paris, Polish Ambassadors, and honoured Russian functionaries—intrigued against the Bernese tyrants. Those who remained sulked, biding their time. One of them—a certain Major Davel—marched into Lausanne, and proclaimed the independence of the canton, in 1723, but was taken into custody and executed. Liberty was to come to Vaud only as a sequel of the French Revolution.

The liberator was a political exile, Frédéric-César de la Harpe, who had been tutor to the grandsons of Catherine of Russia, had settled in Paris, and had acquired influence with the Directorate. Thanks to him, the rising of January, 1798, was supported by a French invasion which Berne could not resist. A French army entered Berne in March; and, in the confusion which ensued, Switzerland was turned upside down and a Helvetic Republic established under French auspices, with Lucerne for its capital. Internecine strife resulted, and, in 1803, Napoleon imposed his mediation. Then followed the Napoleonic wars. Switzerland was one of the cockpits of that period. Already, in 1799, the French, Austrians and Russians had

SWITZERLAND: HISTORICAL SKETCH

fought battles on the St. Gotthard and near Zürich; and, later, Napoleon invaded Italy by way of the Great St. Bernard, made the Simplon Road to serve as a line of communication with that country, and annexed the Valais to France, in order to secure it. When, however, his power was broken at Leipzig, in 1813, his Swiss constitution began to crumble. In 1815, a Swiss army took part in the invasion of France; and a new Federal Pact, approved by the Congress of Vienna, was accepted in August of that year.

That Pact was the beginning of the political Switzerland of our own time; but, even so, there were to be further tribulations and changes. Three separate problems remained to be settled. The constitutions set up in the cantons were aristocratic, and the democrats were knocking at the door. The religious rivalries of Protestants and Catholics continued to be acute; and in one canton, Neuchâtel, the King of Prussia retained overlordship and a garrison.

Trouble began to come to a head in the general European turmoil of 1830. From that year onward insurrections, revolutions and civil wars were frequent.

The year 1847 was specially critical. The Catholic cantons, by forming a separate alliance, the Sonderbund, threw down a challenge which the Protestant cantons had to take up.

The situation, in short, was closely analogous to that which brought about the Civil War in the U.S.A. A quarrel which had long smouldered ended in the War of the Sonderbund. The Federal Government declared the Sonderbund dissolved, and sent an army, under Colonel Dufour of Geneva, 100,000 strong, to compel its dissolution. He won a battle at Gislikon, near Lucerne; and, after a campaign of only twenty-five days, the new Confederation collapsed. In 1857, Switzerland became politically complete, though a final (if it be, indeed, the final) revision of the Constitution was judged necessary in 1874. Its subsequent history has been tranquil.

During the Great War large numbers of wounded or invalided soldiers of the various belligerent armies were, by arrangement, interned in the country in comfortable conditions; and after the war Geneva became the headquarters of the League of Nations.

SWITZERLAND: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

Land-locked state of Europe, bounded north by Germany, south-west and west by France, south-east by Italy, and east by Liechtenstein and Austria. From south-west to north-east, and including the lakes of Geneva and Constance, runs a plain, sloping down to the comparatively moderate heights of the Jura Mountains along the French frontier, while to the south is the central section of the Pennine Alps, comprising some of the greatest heights in Europe. Principal rivers are the Aar, Rhône, Reuss, Ticino, Rhine, and Inn; while the lakes include those of Bienné, Thun, Neuchâtel, Lucerne, and Zürich. Total area about 15,975 square miles, with an estimated population of 3,880,000.

Government and Constitution

Executive and legislative power are in hands of Parliament, which consists of two chambers, the State and National Councils, containing forty-four and about 200 members respectively. Members of the National Council are elected on a basis of proportional representation, there being a deputy for every 20,000 inhabitants. Members of the State Council are chosen by the cantons, each of which returns two members. For purposes of local government Switzerland is divided into cantons and demi-cantons, which have sovereign power in so far as the national Constitution permits, and independent organization. Legislative alteration may be inaugurated by a system known as the popular initiative, it being necessary to submit any law to the national vote if 30,000 citizens or eight cantons present any petition for its modification or annulment.

Commerce and Industries

About 300,000 of the population are peasant proprietors, and over 34 per cent. of the soil is under fruit, crops or gardens. Main agricultural products are condensed milk, cheese, wine,

fruit, and tobacco. More than 3,200 square miles or about 29 per cent. of total area, is occupied by forests, which are supervised by police under the Swiss Confederation. Among important industries are watch and clock-making, salt production, and brewing. Mineral deposits are sparse and include iron-ore, asphalt, and coal. Imports for 1922 were valued at 1,914,465,000 francs, and included cereals, cottons, and minerals. Exports, of which silks, clocks, machinery and cotton goods were the chief, totalled 1,761,576,000 francs for same year. Standard coin the silver franc. Par rate of exchange is 25.22½ francs for £1 sterling.

Communications

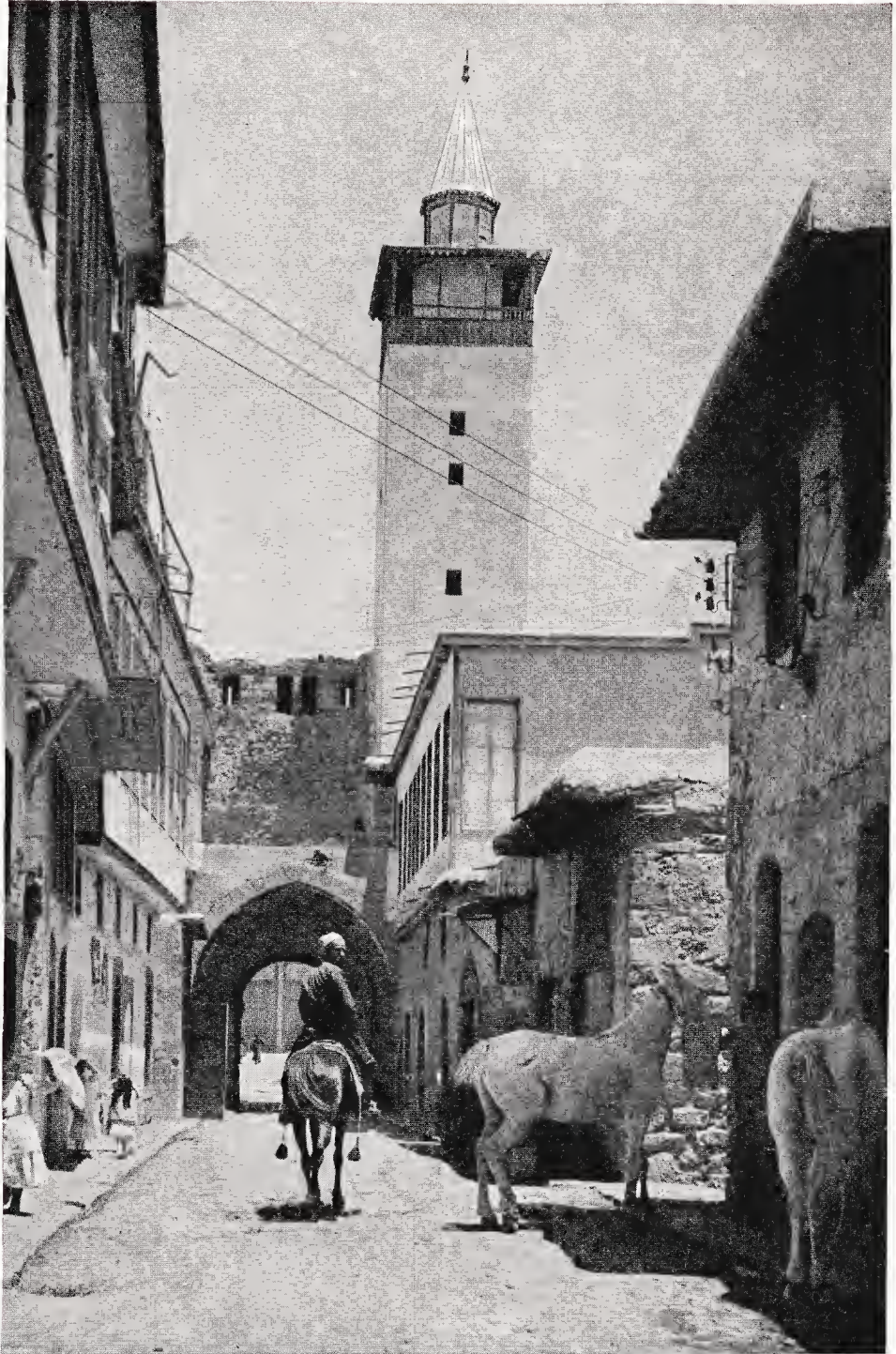
There are over 3,800 miles of State railway, the principal routes being from Basel to Vienna, via Zürich, and to Milan, via Lucerne and the St. Gotthard Tunnel; and from the Simplon tunnel, via Martigny, to Paris and via the Lötschberg tunnel to Berne. Main cross line runs from Lausanne to Solothurn, Zürich, and St. Gall, by way of Neuchâtel or Bienné. There are more than 23,800 miles of telegraph and 272,600 miles of telephone wire. There is also a State aerial service.

Religion and Education

Protestants are in majority in twelve cantons and Catholics in ten. No bishopric can be created in Switzerland without sanction from the Confederation. There is complete liberty of conscience. Elementary education is free and compulsory in every canton, and there are more than 4,200 primary schools. There are universities at Basel, Zürich, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Fribourg, and Neuchâtel.

Chief Towns

Berne, capital (estimated population 104,600), Zürich (207,000), Basel (136,000), Geneva (135,000), Lausanne (68,500), Winterthur (50,000).



ROMAN GATEWAY IN THE STREET WHICH IS CALLED STRAIGHT

One of the longest thoroughfares in Damascus, the Long Bazaar, is associated by tradition with the "street which is called straight," where the blind Paul lodged at his conversion and received his sight. The archway, above which rises a minaret, is the only remaining one of three which formed the east gate of the city. Near this spot is the Christian quarter, a place of narrow lanes and crumbling houses

Photo, Donald McLeish